

THE
COMMISSION
FOR
DISCOVERIES:

As it passed under
THE GREAT SEAL
OF
ENGLAND.



LONDON,
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COMMUNION

English

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FROM THE LIBRARY

OF F. L. GAY

JUNE 1, 1916

THE GREAT

OF

ENGLAND



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over against Harvard College

OLIVER, Lord Protector of the Common-wealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereto belonging, To Our Trusty and Welbeloved *Ralph Hall, Peter Elliston of Grays Inn, in our County of Middlesex, John Giffish, Edward Carry, John Wilby, William Bridges, and Nathaniel Stirrup, Esquires, Greeting.*

Whereas, We have been informed, That severall Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Goods, Chattels, Moneys, Plate, and Jewels, and other things to a very great value, belonging unto Us, in Right of the Common wealth, are by Fraud, Collusion, or otherwise, unjustly concealed or detained, to the prejudice of the State, and great Diminution of the Publick Revenue ;

Whereupon severall persons wel-affected to the Commonwealth, and to Our Sevice, are able, ready, and willing, to discover divers and sundry Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Goods, and Chattels, Moneys, Plate, and Jewels, and other things so belonging unto Us (not pardoned) and unjustly concealed, or detained as aforesaid ; if some more speedy and lesse chargeable way, and course, then by Bills or Informations in Our Court of Exchequer, were found out and directed, for proving and making good such the r Discoveries, and they assured to receive some competent Reward and Recompence, for their service, pains, and charges therein.

And We being willing, that such Persons may receive all due, and fitting encouragement in a work and service, so advantageous to the Commonwealth, and that they or others, whom it may concern (except onely such persons as shall prove very obstinate and refractory) may not be troubled with long and chargeable Sutes, upon Bills or Informations to be exhibited in Our said Court of Exchequer, for discovering such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, and other the premisses belonging unto us (not pardoned) unjustly concealed or detained

ained as aforesaid: But that the same may more speedily be
 leiled into Our Hands, and duly charged in the great Roll of
 of the Pipe, in Our said Exchequer. Know ye therefore
 That We for the better effecting of this Our Service, have
 nominated, constituted and appointed, and by these presents
 do nominate, constitute, and appoint you the said *Ralph Hall,*
Peter Ellison, John Griffith, Edward Carey, John Walsby,
William Bridges, and *Nath. Stirrup,* to be our Commissioners.

And We do by these presents, empower, authorise, and
 appoint you, or any four or more of you, to receive for, and
 on Our behalf, all such Informations as shall by any person
 or persons, be exhibited before you, touching or any way
 concerning any Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears
 of Rents, Debts, Duties, Money, Plate, Jewels, Goods,
 Chattels, or other things so belonging unto Us (and not par-
 doned) which are unjustly concealed or detained as aforesaid;
 and by all such good and lawful ways and means as to you,
 or any four or more of you shall seem meet, to send for any
 Persons, Parties, Witnesses, Records, Accounts, Books and
 Writings whatsoever.

Provided, always, and Our Will and Pleasure is, That be-
 fore any person or persons shall be molested or summoned
 upon any such Information or Informations, the person or
 persons so informing, shall give such good Security with
 Sureties, as by you, Our said Commissioners, or any four or
 more of you, shall be allowed and approved of, to prove and
 make good such, his or their Information or Informations, or
 else to pay such reasonable Costs and Damages unto the party
 or parties, so molested or summoned, as you Our said Com-
 missioners, or any four or more of you, shall award.

And if upon any such Information, Examination, and En-
 quiry, and full hearing of the Parties concerned, and mature
 consideration had of the whole matter, it shall appear unto
 you, Our said Commissioners, or any four or more of you,
 That any such Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents,
 Debts, Duties, Money, Goods, Chattels, Plate, Jewels, or
 other things, so belonging unto Us, in Right of the Com-

monwealth, (and not heretofore pardoned) are unjustly concealed or detained as aforesaid, then Our Will and Pleasure is, That you Our said Commissioners, or any four or more of you, shall forthwith from time to time, under your Hands and Seals, certify all such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Money, Goods, Chaucels, Plate, Jewels, and other things so discovered, together with the whole matter touching such Discovery or Discoveries, unto Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, for the time being, to the end: The said Commissioners of Our Treasury, may forthwith cause the premises by Process out of Our said Court of Exchequer, to be duly seized into Our Hands, and to that purpose put in charge in the Writ Roll, of the Pipe Chamber.

And that this Our present Commission may be the better, and more effectually executed, and with less charge and expence unto the persons so discovering, without delay, Our further Will and Pleasure is, That there be a Register attending you Our said Commissioners in this Our Service: And We conceiving Our wellbeloved *Ferdinando Parkhurst* Gentleman, to be a fit person for that purpose, have nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents do nominate, constitute, and appoint him the said *Ferdinando Parkhurst*, to be Register to you Our said Commissioners for this Service.

And We do likewise by these presents, constitute, and appoint, Our wellbeloved *Richard Hatten*, Gentleman, to be Assistant unto the said *Ferdinando Parkhurst*, in the said business and employment; who shall have and receive such competent yearly Salaries and Allowances, as We shall think fit to allow and appoint unto them, the same to be paid unto them, and either of them respectively at the Receipt of Our Exchequer quarterly, by even portions; so long as they, and either of them shall continue in the employment aforesaid. And therefore We Will, and do hereby, Declare Our Pleasure to be, That they the said *Ferdinando Parkhurst* and *Richard Hatten*, or either of them, shall not take any other Fee or Fees, of any person or persons, so informing as aforesaid, or of any other person or persons whatsoever, Except onely

such smal Fees for writing, as by you, Our said Commissioners, or any four or more of you, shall be limited and appointed.

And We Will, and by these presents do require you Our said Commissioners, That you or any four or more of you shall meet upon Monday, the Six and twentieth day of May instant, next ensuing the date hereof, by nine of the Clock in the Morning, at *Worcester-house* in the Strand, in Our County of *Middlesex* in some convenient Room there, to be appointed for that purpose, then and there, to enter upon the Execution of this Our Commission; and so to proceed therein, and to sit from day to day, or at least three days in every week, for the space of one whole year, from the date of this Our present Commission, or till We shall signify Our Pleasure to the contrary.

And to the end, that ample Encouragement, Reward, and Recompence may be given unto all such persons, as have made or shall hereafter make any Discovery of any such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Moneys, Plate, Jewels, or other the premisses so belonging to Us, and not pardoned, but concealed, or detained as aforesaid. We do by these presents Declare Our further Will and Pleasure to be, and do hereby with the Advice and Consent of Our Council, Grant, That all and every person and persons, who before the Commissioners of, and for Our Treasury, have already discovered, or upon any Information or Informations to be exhibited before you Our said Commissioners herein before named, or any four or more of you, shall discover, or upon any Bill or Information, exhibited or to be exhibited in Our said Court of Exchequer, hath or have discovered, or shall hereafter discover any such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Moneys, Plate, Jewels, or other the premisses so belonging to Us, and not pardoned, but unjustly concealed or detained as aforesaid: And the respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, of all and every such person and persons so discovering, shall from time to time, and at all times, have and enjoy to their own use and behoof, one full fifth part, or so much more as the said Commissioners of Our Treasury, for the time being, shall think fit to allow, of all annual and other sum and sums of Money, which shall be paid into the Receipt of Our Exchequer, upon any such Discovery or Discoveries, and upon the prosecution of such person or persons so discovering respectively.

And

And if any person or persons being seized or possessed of any such Manors, Lands, Rents, Moneys, Plate, Jewels, Goods or Chattels, or owing any such Arrears of Rents, Debts and Duties, so belonging unto Us, and not pardoned, but unjustly concealed or detained as aforesaid, shall voluntarily first discover the same unto the said Commissioners of Our Treasury, for the time being before any such Discovery thereof made as aforesaid, and shall submit unto such Orders and Directions as shall by the Commissioners of Our Treasury be given; for the more speedy seizing into Our Hands, and due charging in the great Roll of the Pipe aforesaid, all such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Goods and Chattels, so voluntarily discovered as aforesaid, then, and in such case only, We Will, That such person or persons so voluntarily discovering, and his, her, and their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assignes, shall from time to time, and at all times, have and enjoy to their own use and behoof, one full fifth part, or so much more as the Commissioners of Our Treasury shall think fit to allow, of all annual or other sum or sums of money, which shall be paid into the Receipt of Our Exchequer, upon such voluntary Discovery or Discoveries of any such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Goods, Chattels, or other the premises; and shall likewise have allowance, deduction, satisfaction, and retention to him, her, or themselves, of one full fifth part, or of so much more, as the Commissioners of Our Treasury shall think fit to allow of all such Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, sums of Money, Plate and Jewels, so voluntarily discovered, to be in his, her, or their possession, or by him, her, or them, owing, concealed, or detained as aforesaid. And such person and persons so voluntarily discovering as aforesaid, shall likewise have Our Free and Gracious Pardon, for such his, her, and their former concealments thereof.

And Our further Will and Pleasure is, and We do hereby Declare the same to be, That if any person or persons, having compounded, and having any Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Moneys, Plate, Jewels, Goods or Chattels, omitted out of his, her, or their Composition or Compositions, not pardoned, but unjustly concealed or detained as aforesaid, or being now under Sequestration for Delinquency or Recusancy, and having any Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Moneys, Plate, Jewels, Goods or Chattels, not sequestered, nor pardoned, but concealed or detained as aforesaid, or being comprised in any Act for sale; and having any Cophold or Customary Land, or Arrears of Rents, Debts, Duties, Goods or Chattels, not sequestered nor pardon-

ed; but concealed, or declined as aforesaid, and undulyly detain any
 such Discovery thereof made as aforesaid, Petition the Commissioners
 of Our Treasury, for the time being, to be admitted to compound
 for the same; then, We do hereby Will and Authorise the said Com-
 missioners of our Treasury, that in such case, They compound with
 such person or persons so petitioning, after the rate of One fourth
 part of the value of such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears
 of Rents, Debts, Duties, Moneys, Goods and Chattels respectively.
 And further, We do by these presents, Declare and Grant, by and
 with the Advice and Consent of Our Council, That all and every per-
 son and persons who shall so Compound as aforesaid, and after sub-
 mit unto such Orders and Directions, as by the said Commissioners
 of Our Treasury shall be given for duly charging such said persons
 of money, as shall be due and owing upon such Compoundation, Com-
 position in the great Roll of the Pipe, and shall duly put the same
 into the Receipt of Our said Exchequer, and the Heirs, Executors,
 Administrators and Assignes of such person and persons, so com-
 pounding, submitting, and paying, shall and may lawfully hold and
 enjoy all such Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Arrears of Rents,
 Debts, Duties, Goods and Chattels, so compounded for, free and clear
 of, and from any Seizure, Sequestration, or Molestation whatsoever,
 any thing in this our present Commission, or otherwise to the contrary
 in anywise notwithstanding.

And to the end, that such competent Salaries as aforesaid, may be
 allowed to the Register, and his Assistant, before in these presents
 named, as also the fifth, and other parts of Money before mention-
 ed, may be duly paid, and the Allowances, Disbursements and Compen-
 sations aforesaid made, according to the tenor and true meaning of
 this Our Commission, We have by Our Letters of Privy Seal, bear-
 ing even date with these presents, given full Warrant and Authority
 in that behalf, to the said Commissioners of, and for Our Treasury
 to allow and pay the same accordingly.

And the better to enable you Our said Commissioners, to carry on
 the Service aforesaid with effect, We do by these presents Impower
 and Authorise you, or any four or more of you, in all Cases, Matters,
 and things touching and concerning the Premises, to examine Wit-
 nesses upon Oath, or otherwise: Which Touch, We do hereby Au-
 thorise you, or any four or more of you to administer.

And lastly, We Will and Require you, Our said Commissioners
 to observe and pursue such Rules and Instructions concerning the Ma-
 nagement of our said Service, as you shall from time to time, and at
 all times hereafter, receive from Us, by and with the Advice of Our
 Council;

In Witness whereof, &c.

FINIS

